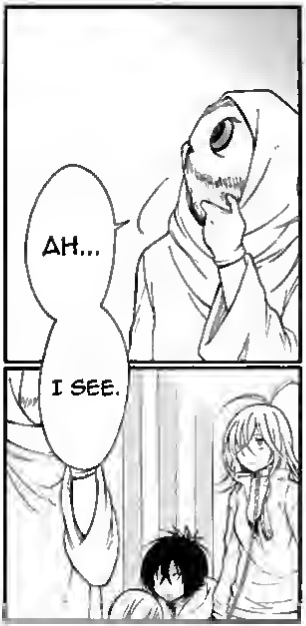
.....
I TRIED...
TO KNOW LOVE.
...HUH?
I WANTED

TO UNDERSTAND THE FEELING
CALLED "TRUE LOVE."
鳥籠ノ番
トリカゴノツガイ
陽東太郎
#第18話：真實的愛

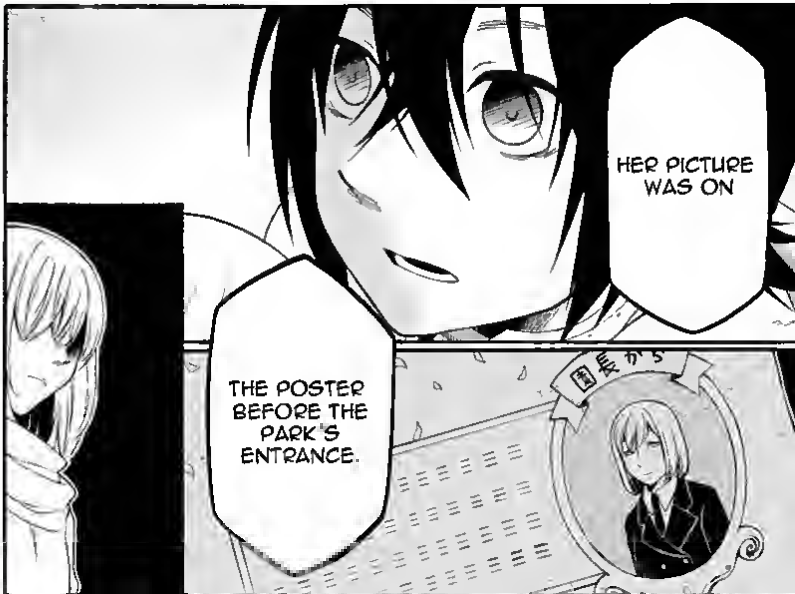
.....
YES.
...WHAT?
TRUE LOVE?

TO TELL YOU ABOUT THIS,
I HAVE TO SHOW MYSELF.


AH...
I SEE.

!
!!

.....!?
A WOMAN!?
WHO ARE YOU-
SHE WAS THE MANAGER
OF THIS PARK.


HER PICTURE WAS ON
THE POSTER BEFORE THE PARK'S ENTRANCE.

AN EXCELLENT ANSWER.
AS EXPECTED OF KUROBE...
YOU WATCHED CAREFULLY.
SO, YOU PROBABLY NOTICED
THAT OTHER THING ABOUT ME?
.....
LET'S TALK ABOUT THE PAST.

.....
NOT ONLY WAS I THE MANAGER,
I WAS ALSO THE DAUGHTER OF THE MAN WHO BUILT THIS PARK.
I GREW UP AS A NAIVE GIRL.
THE COMPANY PLANNED TO BUILD A NEW PARK.
MY DAD ARRANGED FOR US TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE PROJECT
ALSO,
HE LET US BUILD IT WITH OUR OWN IDEAS.
AT THAT TIME
I FELL IN LOVE, AND MARRIED A CLERK IN OUR COMPANY.

OUR PARK,
DIDN'T OPEN FOR A SINGLE DAY.
...BUT
?
IT WAS CLOSED ON OPENING DAY.
NEW OPEN!
EVEN THOUGH WE HAD EVERY-THING READY...
.....
DO YOU KNOW WHY?

THE MAN IN CHARGE OF THE PARK
WAS CAUGHT PLANNING
THE MURDER OF HIS MISTRESS AND BASTARD SON.

!!
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
KUROBE GIN-SAN?
THANKS TO THAT,
WE LOST ALL OUR REPU-TATION.
OUR INVESTORS ABANDONED MY FATHER'S COMPANY...
AND WE WERE FORCED TO CLOSE THE PARK.
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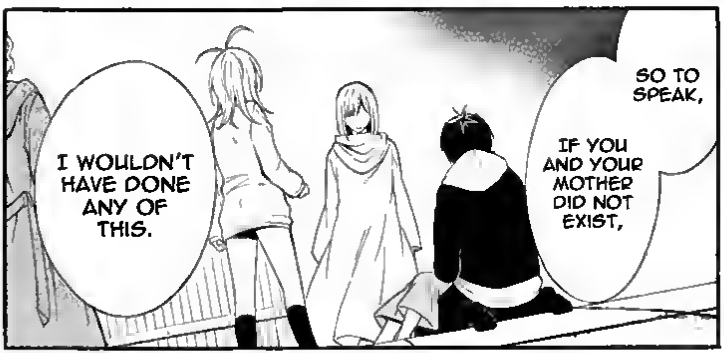
.....
DID WE MEET SOMEWHERE BY ACCIDENT?
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D SEEN MY FACE BEFORE THOUGH...


I WOULDN'T HAVE DONE ANY OF THIS.
SO TO SPEAK,
IF YOU AND YOUR MOTHER DID NOT EXIST,

YEAH.
IT'S NOT GIN-SAN'S FAULT-
DON'T HATE THEM..!!
...IN...IN THAT CASE,

THAT WAS THE PAST.
I DIDN'T STAY HERE FOR HATRED.
!?
DID YOU FORGET WHAT I SAID?
I WANTED TO KNOW LOVE...
THAT MAN,
HE ALWAYS SAID THINGS LIKE,
"I LIKE YOU."
"I LOVE YOU."
"YOU ARE MY ONLY ONE."
AND SO ON...

THEY WERE ALL LIES.
!
HE SAID SWEET WORDS TO ME
WHILE HE HAD A KID WITH ANOTHER WOMAN.

WHAT IS "LOVE?"
DOES LOVE REALLY EXIST?
THEN...
THE LOVE I BELIEVED IN WAS FALSE.
WE DIDN'T SHARE "LOVE"...
I WAS EAGER TO BE ANSWERED BY SOMEONE...
NOT WITH SUPERFICIAL WORDS, BUT WITH ACTION.
THAT'S WHY I BUILT THIS "CAGE CASTLE."

YOU WILL EXPRESS YOUR TRUE FEELINGS WHEN IN DANGER.
SO THE LOVE IN HERE WILL BE "TRUE LOVE."
I FOUND IT.

!!
I SPREAD THE RUMORS
THAT THIS PLACE WAS REBUILT.
ALL SO THAT
MEN AND WOMEN WOULD COME
AND PROVE TRUE LOVE EXISTS.
ONCE EVERYTHING WAS SET UP,
I BEGAN TO TEST PEOPLE.
THIS PANEL WASN'T EVEN TL'ED. JESUS CHRIST.
I CAN'T READ MOON-RUNES, SO I GUESSED. SORRY.

THE RESULT WAS TERRIBLE.
BETWEEN THOSE THAT SAID THEY WOULD BE TOGETHER FOREVER JUST A MOMENT AGO...
DECEIT.
CONFLICT.
BETRAYAL.
BLAME.
VIOLENCE.
PASSING THE BUCK TO EACH OTHER.
EVERYONE SHOWED ME A LOT
NONE OF THEM...
SHOWED ME "LOVE."
HOWEVER..

KUROBE-SAN,
YOU ARE DIFFERENT.
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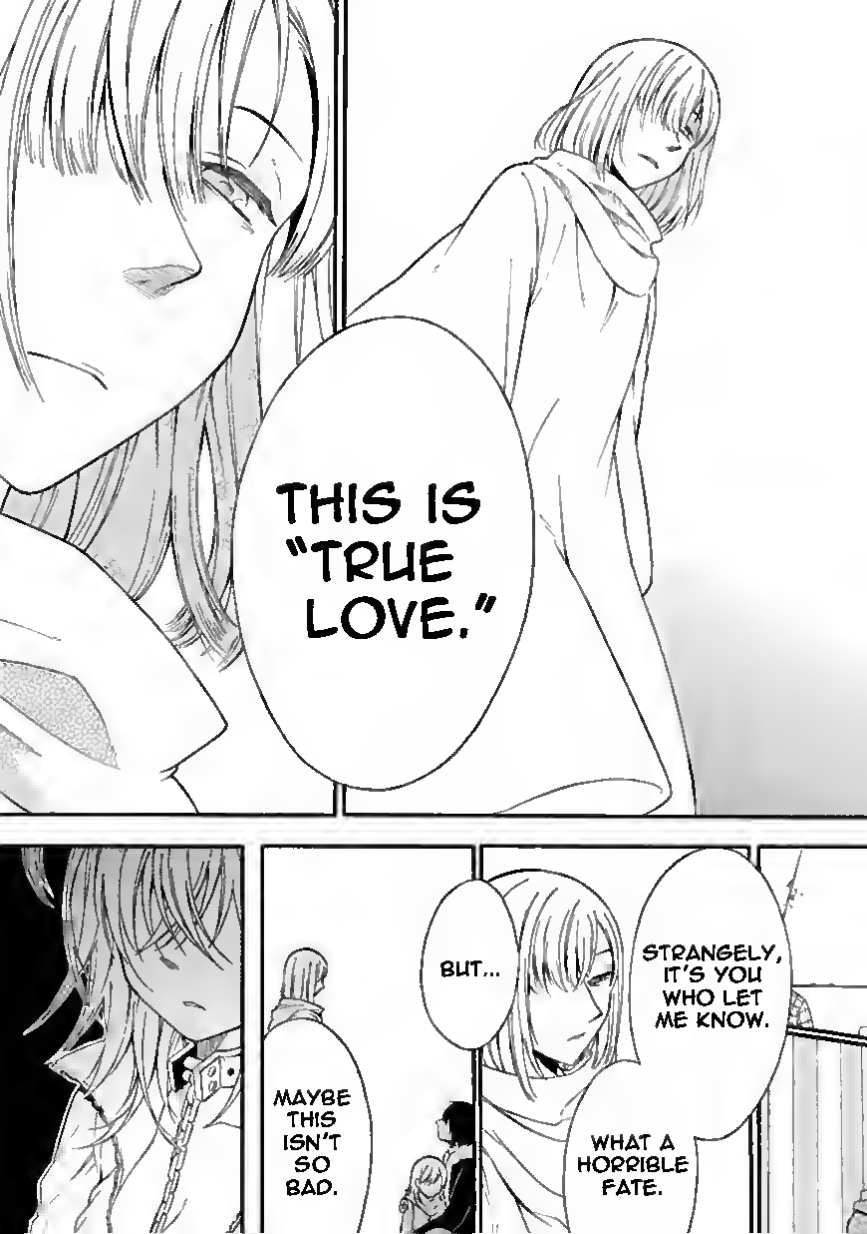
YOU CAME HERE BY CHANCE...
IT SURPRISED ME
TO LOOK FOR YOUR GIRLFRIEND, EVEN THOUGH YOU DIDN'T KNOW IF SHE WAS DEAD OR ALIVE..
只要白鹭没事
EVEN HEARING ANOTHER MAN HAD VANISHED
那就
DIDN'T SWAY YOUR MIND.

I THINK...
YOU BELIEVED IN YOUR GIRLFRIEND WHEN OTHERS SUSPECTED HER,
AND PROTECTED HER WHEN I POINTED MY GUN AT YOU.
IN RETURN FOR COMPLETING MY WISH.
I GAVE BACK YOUR GIRLFRIEND


THIS IS "TRUE LOVE."
STRANGELY, IT'S YOU WHO LET ME KNOW.
BUT...
WHAT A HORRIBLE FATE.
MAYBE THIS ISN'T SO BAD.

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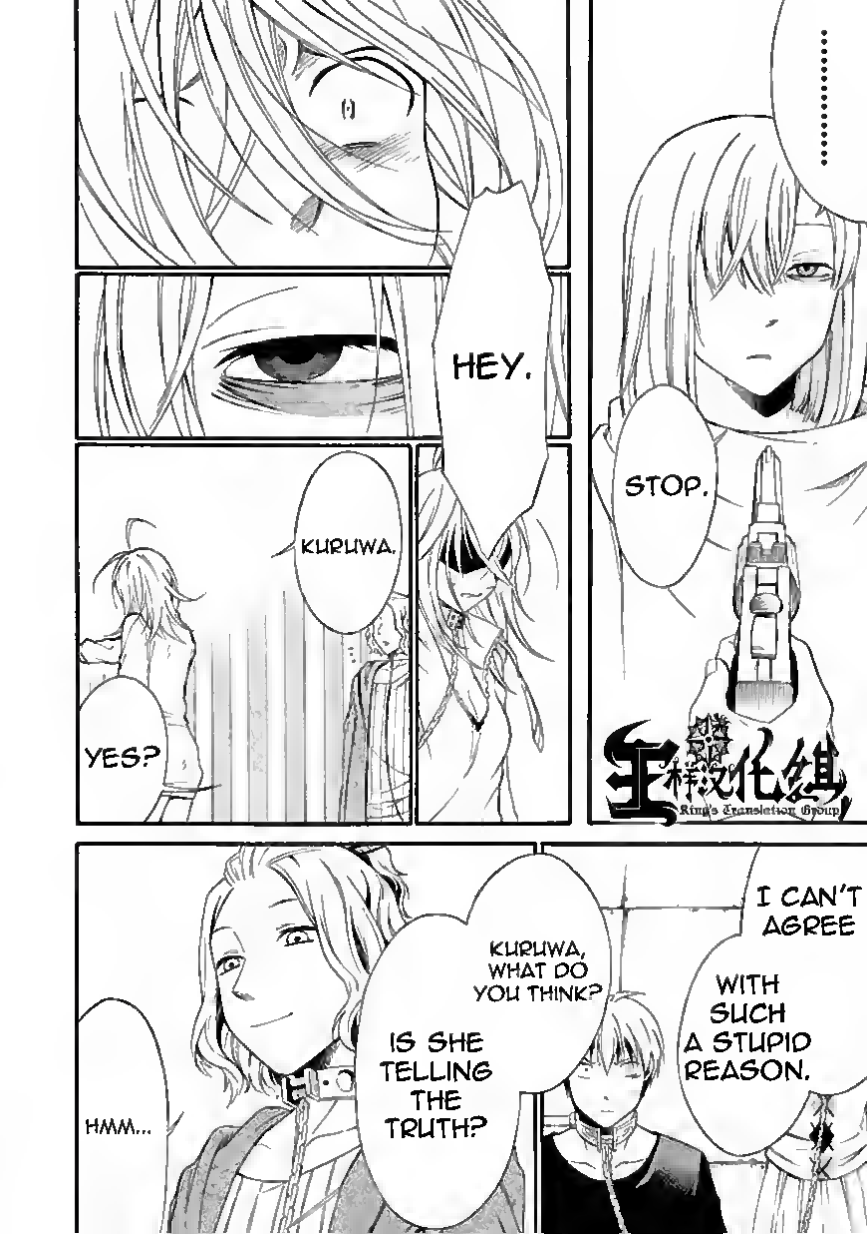
!!
TRUE LOVE?
NONSENSE.
DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE DIED HERE?
WHAT ARE YOU EVEN SAYING?!

IMPRISONING INNOCENT PEOPLE AND KILLING THEM
ALL SO YOU COULD UNDER-STAND "LOVE?"
THAT CAN'T BE IT.
YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT RIDICU-LOUS EXPLAN-ATION?
QUICK. TELL ME THE TRUTH.
.....
...OI.
SAY SOME-THING.
SPIT IT OUT!


HEY.
KURUWA.
YES?
STOP.
I CAN'T AGREE WITH SUCH A STUPID REASON.
KURUWA, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IS SHE TELLING THE TRUTH?
HMM...
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King's Translation Group

I WONDER.
EVERYONE HAS A UNIQUE WAY OF THINKING, SO PERHAPS HER EXPLANATION IS TRUE.
.....
.....
BUT WHAT SHE SAID JUST NOW CONFUSED ME A BIT.
THERE'S TOO MUCH RANDOM CHANCE.
CONFUSED?
HUH...
.....

YOU SAID
KANAMORI CAME HERE "BY CHANCE," RIGHT?
KANAMORI-SAN'S GIRLFRIEND
"ACCIDENTALLY" DISAPPEARED THE DAY AFTER THEY BEGAN TO DATE.
HE WAS "RANDOMLY" INVITED TO LOOK FOR HIS GIRL-FRIEND.
AND "RANDOMLY" IT TURNS OUT THAT HE'S CONNECTED TO THE KID-NAPPER.
ADD UP ALL OF THAT?
THIS MIDDLE BUBBLE IS A GUESS FUCKING ENGRISH TL'S MAN
AND IN ONE MONTH
THE GIRLFRIEND WAS SAVED "RANDOMLY."
THAT'S NOT "RANDOM." THAT'S A SCAM.
THAT MAKES MORE SENSE.

SHE WAS IMPRISONED BECAUSE SHE IS KUROBE'S GIRLFRIEND.
STOP...
ENOUGH...
SHE WAS THE BAIT TO INDUCE KUROBE TO COME HERE.
ALTHOUGH I DON'T KNOW THE REASON,
THE PURPOSE BEHIND IT IS CLEAR.
SPEAKING OF WHICH...
I DO HAVE ONE QUESTION.
NO...

WHO BROUGHT KUROBE HERE?
DIFFERENT FROM ALL THE OTHERS, KUROBE DIDN'T COME BECAUSE OF YOUR RUMOR
KUROBE AND SHIRASAGI'S RELATION-SHIP WASN'T KNOWN TO OTHERS
BUT IF SOME-ONE HADN'T SAID "SHIRASAGI WENT TO CAGE CASTLE" TO KUROBE,
KUROBE WOULD NOT BE HERE.
YOU...
CAN'T SAY?

WHO
TOLD HIM TO COME HERE?
ENOUGH ALREADY...
STOP SAYING IT...

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HEY EVERYONE!
I REALLY LIKE THIS SERIES.
WHAT I DON'T LIKE ARE THE CONSISTENTLY UGLY SPEED SCANS "RING TRANSLATIONS" HAS BEEN POSTING TO BATOTO.

SO I DECIDED TO TRY AND RESET ALL THE TYPE IN THEIR VERSION OF CHAPTER 18, BOTH BECAUSE I WANTED TO PRACTICE PHOTOSHOP, AND BECAUSE I WANTED TO PROVE RING WAS BEING LAZY FOR NO REAL REASON.

TURNS OUT IT WAS A LITTLE TEDIOUS (IT TOOK ME 6 HOURS, BECAUSE I'M A NOOB, AND HAD TO CLEAN UP RING'S CRAP TYPESETTING TO BOOT)... BUT I CALL WORTH. ANYWAY, WHEN OUTER WORLD SCANS GETS AROUND TO GIVING THIS CHAPTER THE "TRUE LOVE" IT DESERVES (HUE), THROW THEM A WELL-DESERVED THANK YOU.

IN THE MEANTIME, YOU NOW HAVE A MORE READABLE VERSION (THOUGH I HAD TO INTERPRET RING'S ENGRISH, SO IT'S NOT GONNA BE 100% ACCURATE).

SINCERELY, A RANDOM TORIKAGO FAN.

PS: THE WATERMARKS ARE RING'S, NOT MINE. I LEFT SOME OF THEM BECAUSE TECHNICALLY, THE TRANSLATION WAS THEIRS.